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Bonus coupons.

* 72 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number and value of bonus coupons issued under the bonus scheme of 1947;

(*b*) the number and value of coupons redeemed in the shape of manures;

(*c*) the quantity and value of (i) groundnut cake, (ii) chemical fertilizers and (iii) green manure seeds supplied in exchange for coupons;

(*d*) the amount disbursed as cash bonus;

(*e*) whether there are still cases in respect of which coupons have not been issued though paddy has been secured;

(*f*) if the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, why the issue of coupons has been delayed;

(*g*) what is the amount of bonus involved for which coupons have yet to be issued; and

(*h*) whether the Government propose to reintroduce payment of bonus to accelerate the progress of procurement?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(*a*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to a similar Legislative Council Starred Question No. 71.

"(*b*) Information regarding the number of coupons redeemed in the shape of manures is not readily available. As regards the value of coupons so redeemed, attention is invited to the statement placed on the table of the House in connexion with the Legislative Council Starred Question No. 71.

"(*c*) & (*d*) Please see the statement referred to above.

"(*e*) Yes.

"(*f*) The delay is due to several reasons. Some of them are—

(i) belated applications for bonus from the producers;

(ii) grant of extension of time for submitting applications for bonus;

(iii) want of 'E' Form receipts;

(iv) absence of parties from the villages; and

(v) parties not turning up in spite of notices issued to them, etc., etc., etc.

"(*g*) The question does not arise now as the Government have issued orders directing the payment of the manure-part of the bonus *also* in cash, in all the pending cases, without issuing any coupons.

"(*h*) There is no such proposal at present under the consideration of the Government."

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SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ తూర్పుగోదావరి జిల్లా కొత్తపేట తాలూకాలోని రైతులకు సుమారు రు 2,50,000 ల విలువకు బోనస్ కూపన్లు ఇచ్చియున్నప్పటికీ వారికి వేరుశెనగపిండిగాని, Chemical manure గాని, పచ్చి ఎరువుగాని supply చేయలేకనేటువంటి విషయము ప్రభుత్వమువారికి తెలియునా ? ”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO (translated the above in English) :—“ Whether the Government are aware that for the two lakhs and odd worth of coupons in Kottapetta no manure was available either chemical or otherwise?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ I have already answered that the Government have decided to pay cash where manures are not available and the supply will depend upon the manure available with the Government. They are afraid that the manure will not be sufficient to meet the demand and so they have decided to pay cash in lieu of manure and such of those that want cash will be paid. I am afraid it will not be possible hereafter to pay in manure and so they will be paid only in cash.”

11-15 p.m. SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“ ధాన్యసేకరణ సందర్భంలో voluntary గా ధాన్యమును ప్రభుత్వమునకు ఇచ్చినటువంటి రైతులకు 12 మాసములైనప్పటికి ఎరువు రూపంలోగాని, ధనరూపంలోగాని బోనస్ ఇవ్వలేదు. అనేకసార్లు ఈ రైతులు ఆఫీసర్ల చుట్టూ తిరిగి డబ్బు రాలేదని అనిపించుకుంటూ చాలా నిస్పృహగా ఉన్నారు. కాబట్టి ఏ విధంగా ఎప్పుడు ఈ డబ్బు రైతులకు ఇప్పించగలుగుతారో ప్రభుత్వము వారు తెలియజేస్తారా ? ”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO (translated the question into English) :—“ May I know why in the matter of payment of bonus in cash no instructions have been received in the taluk offices? Will Government reveal what those instructions are here and now and how money is to be paid and at what time? ”

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—“ Circulars have been issued to all Collectors on this matter and all village officers have been advised to inform all bonus coupon holders that manures may not be available and that the parties need not wait in the expectation of getting manures, but that they will be paid in cash and that it is open to them to apply for cash through the usual channel.”

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM :—“నా ప్రశ్నకు సరియైన సమాధానము రాలేదు. ఎరువులు ఇవ్వరు, డబ్బు యిస్తారు అని రైతులకు తెలుసును. ఆ అభిప్రాయముతో వారు తాలూకా ఆఫీసులకు వెళ్ళితే అధికారులు డబ్బు ఇవ్వడం refuse చేస్తున్నారు. కాబట్టి ఫలానావిధంగా, ఫలానప్పుడు డబ్బు వారికి ఇస్తారని రైతులు ఆశించడానికి అవకాశమున్నదా ? ”

THE HON. SRI KALA VENKATA RAO (translated the question into English) :—“ May I draw the attention of the Government to the fact that when ryots went to the taluk offices with their coupons they were not paid cash because they were told by the taluk officers that they had not received any instructions? ”

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THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Necessary instructions in this behalf have been issued to the Collectors. If any taluk officer does not pay cash for these bonus coupons the matter may be brought to the notice of the Government and we shall enquire into it. But I may announce here and now cash payment for all bonus coupons have been ordered and any ryot has got the option to take advantage of exchanging coupon for cash."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I enquire whether the Government of India have offered to pay the value of bonus coupons if they are to be redeemed in the shape of manures? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The question is a big 'if'. Because manures are not available, therefore it is, the Provincial Government have decided to pay in cash."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Will that cash payment be made good by the Government of India? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" We will have to get into touch with them on that question."

Diesel motor buses.

* 73 Q.—SRI B. BHIMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of diesel motor buses purchased, since the Nationalization of Motor Transport in the City of Madras;

(*b*) the cost of each bus and the total amount paid for the above buses ;

(*c*) the firm from which the diesel buses were purchased and the address of the said firm ; and

(*d*) whether in the report by the adjudicator in the matter of disputes between bus proprietors and the workers, he has given his opinion that the cost of each bus will not be more than Rs. 15,000?

THE HON. SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—" (*a*) Twenty-five Italian Diesel buses have so far been purchased.

" (*b*) The cost of each bus *excluding customs duty* works out to Rs. 34,684 approximately. The total amount paid for the 25 buses, *excluding customs duty*, is Rs. 8,67,104–6–4.

" (*c*) The buses were purchased from the Agents of Messrs. Isotta Fraschini Automobile Company, Milan, Italy. Their address is Messrs. Indo-British General Exchange, Ltd., New Opera Buildings, Residency Road, Bangalore.

" (*d*) In calculating the working expenses and the income for a bus, the Industrial Tribunal has assumed that the maximum cost of a bus is Rs. 15,000; but the figure relates only to a petrol bus."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Are Government aware that these Diesel motor buses are, as per public opinion, considered to be inferior to petrol buses, and they emanate nauseating smell and it is impossible for passengers to sit in Diesel buses."